(c) to (e) The details of annual growth rate of GDP for agriculture sector (excluding allied sectors) and for other sectors at constant prices (1999-2000 prices) during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Annual growth rates of GDP for Agriculture (including livestock), excluding forestry, logging and fishing sections	Annual growth rates of GDP in other sectors (including forestry, logging and fishing)
2003-04	10.9	8.0
2004-05	-0.2	9.4
2005-06	6.3	9.6

The annual average targeted growth rates during Eight Plan (1992-97), Ninth Plan (1997—2002) and Tenth Plan (2002-07) were 3.1 per cent, 3.9 per cent and 4.0 per cent resepctively.

The growth rate of agriculture fluctuated between 10.9 per cent in 2003-04 and (-) 0.2 per cent in 2004-05 while the growth rate in other sectors steadily increased from 8.0 per cent in 2003-04 to 9.6 per cent in 2005-06.

Suicides

1182. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average suicides of farmers per day is six in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the National Commission on Farmers is collecting data on such suicides every day;

(d) whether any financial assistance is being given to the families of affected farmers;

(e) the steps proposed to study the cause of each and every suicide of farmers;

(f) whether a national help line would be set up immediately for families of affected farmers; and

(g) the details of other help proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (g) As per the information received from State Governments year-wise and State-wise figures of suicide of farmers are given at Statement *See* below. Taking into account the severity of the problem the Government of India has sanctioned a rehabilitation package for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala, involving a total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore. The assistance provided to the farmers under the package including *ex-gratia* assistance from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, interest waiver, assured irrigation, seed replacement, watershed development, micro irrigation, horticulture development, extension services, and subsidiary income services. In addition, the State Government have also taken several initiatives to redress the problems of the farmers. State Government also take appropriate action to verify the causes of each suicide case before providing the relief under the rehabilitation package.

Government of India has also put in place a comprehensive credit policy for providing timely and adequate credit support to farmers to enable them to adopt modern technology and improved agricultural practices. The policy *inter-alia* includes the following provisions to assist the farmers:

Debt restructuring in respect of farmers in distress and farmers in arrears providing for rescheduling of outstanding loans over a period of five years including moratorium of two years, thereby making all farmers eligible for fresh credit.

Banks are allowed to finance for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private money lenders.

Refinement of Kisan Credit Card scheme to simplify credit delivery mechanism to the farmers.

The rate of interest on crop loans, up to a principal amount of Rs.3 lakhs, has been reduced to 7% per annum with effect from Kharif 2006-07.

Besides, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is implemented with the objective to protect the farmers against the crop losses suffered on account of natural calamities.

The National Commission on Farmers has not compiled any data on suicides as it was not in its terms of reference.

There is no proposal at present to set up any national help line for families of affected farmers.

Statement

Cases of suicide by farmers in States

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Governments.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2003-04	393
		2004-05	1126
		2005-06	378
		2006-07(upto November)	104
2.	Karnataka	2003-04	708
		2004-05	271
		2005-06	152
		2006-07 (upto November)	71*
3.	Maharashtra	2003	173
		2004	622
		2005	577
		2006 (upto October 31)	1843
4.	Tamil Nadu	2000-2006	26
5.	Punjab	2003	13
		2004	11
		2005	6
6.	Kerala	2003	58
		2004	101
		2005	119
		2006 (upto December)	98
8.	Gujarat	2003	3
		2004	7
		2005	7
		2006 (upto May)	1

* Includes cases pending with Committee for want of information.

Source: As reported by State Governments.